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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

GRAPEFRUIT PROSPECTS IN THE ISLE OF PINES

An increase in the shipments of grapefruit from the Isle of Pines during the coming season is predicted by local growers, according to a report from Vice Consul Talbott at Nueva Gerona. The 1925-26 crop was unusually profitable. Most of the fruit is shipped during the months of August, September, October and November.

The Isle of Pines depends largely upon grapefruit for its prosperity and, while other agricultural enterprises are increasing in importance, the success or failure of this citrus crop determines to a considerable extent the economic condition of the residents, particularly the Americans. The total exports of grapefruit to the United States during the 1925-26 season amounted to approximately 180,000 crates as compared with 220,000 in 1924-25 and 170,000 in 1923-24. Higher prices were received and greater profits realized, however, during the past year than in any other since the inception of fruit raising in the Isle of Pines.

Shipments of grapefruit to England totalled 40,000 crates during the past year. The prices received were about the same as those obtained in New York. A small amount of grapefruit was sent to Germany also during the March quarter of this year.

FRUIT ASSOCIATION FORMED IN VERA CRUZ, MEXICO

An association of fruit, particularly orange, growers has been formed in the Jalapa district of the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico, for the purpose of improving the fruit so that it can be exported to the United States and Europe, according to a report received in the Department of Agriculture from Vice Consul Willys A. Myers at Vera Cruz. At the present time there is an abundance of oranges which are exported only to Canada. These shipments are made via New York and last year the oranges sold in Montreal for 50 pesos per thousand, equivalent to about \$4.00 per box. Seedless oranges from this district sell in Mexico City at the rate of about \$1.50 per box and the growers receive about 40 cents or less per box. One of the principal objects of the new association is to obtain better prices for the producers.

No fruit will be exported this year to the United States or Europe, states Vice Consul Myers. It is planned to adopt the fumigation system in use in the United States and when the fruit is in healthy condition exportation will commence. The association has asked the Mexican Government to furnish one of the National Line steamships to be used as a fruit boat for the shipment of oranges and other Mexican products when exportation is started.

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